United Nations S/2002/1116

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 October 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 7 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith information regarding the total withdrawal of the Rwandan Patriotic Army from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex).

We would be grateful if this information were published and distributed to all Member States as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Anastase **Gasana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-62520 (E) 091002

Annex to the letter dated 7 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

5 October 2002

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda presents its compliments to the dean of the diplomatic corps, all heads of diplomatic and consular missions, and the international non-governmental organizations accredited to and working in Rwanda, and has the honour to inform them that the Government of the Republic of Rwanda has withdrawn all its troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The last Rwandan soldier left the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo over the Goma-Gisenyi border at around 1330 on Saturday, 5 October 2002, when most of your institutions were represented to witness the withdrawal.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda wishes to remind the international community at large that the withdrawal of Rwandan troops complies with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement of July 1999 and the Pretoria Agreement of July 2002. As announced by H.E. Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, both in Pretoria when signing the Agreement with President Kabila and in New York exchanging views with the Security Council, Rwanda has fulfilled all its commitments within the given time frame required by those various agreements and United Nations resolutions, especially by the Pretoria Agreement of 30 July 2002, and the 90 days' calendar most observers had wrongly judged overambitious.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda impatiently waits to see other signatories genuinely doing what they have agreed to do with regard to bringing peace to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, especially by effecting the fully fledged deployment of phase 3 of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and calling on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to globally and swiftly fulfil its engagements to track down, put in assembly areas, identify, disarm and demobilize the ex-FAR and Interahamwe to avoid any recurrence of hostilities in the region. Rwanda stands firm to its commitments and, as in the recent past, it will never mortgage the security and sovereignty of its people.